

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, ECON, UR, NATO

SUBJECT: NATO SYMPOSIUM: "LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION TODAY."

REF: USNATO 3007

1. DEPARTMENT CONSIDERS PROPOSED SUBJECT FOR SYMPOSIUM TO BE APPROPRIATE AND CAN APPROVE SUCH A MEETING, ASSUMING MISSION SEES NO OBJECTION EITHER TO HOLDING OF SYMPOSIUM OR TO SUBJECT. WE PRESUME THE FORMAT WILL BE THE SAME AS PREVIOUSLY AND THAT PAPERS WILL BE PUBLISHED WITH A DISCLAIMER THAT THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE VIEWS OF NATO OR ITS MEMBER STATES.

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2. MORE DETAILED COMMENTS AS FOLLOWS:

A) TITLE OF SYMPOSIUM MORE APPROPRIATELY "ECONOMIC LIFE IN THE SOVIET UNION TODAY." SUBJECTS PRESENTED ARE SURELY NOT THE WHOLE OF LIFE IN THE USSR.

B) AT SAME TIME EMPHASIS MIGHT BE PLACED MORE DIRECTLY ON A FEW MAJOR ECONOMIC QUESTIONS RATHER THAN DIFFUSED SO WIDELY AMONG SOCIO-PSYCHOLOGICAL, AS WELL AS ECONOMIC TOPICS SEVERAL OF OUR EXPERTS HAVE SUGGESTED EMPHASIS ON CURRENT ROLE OF CONSUMER IN SOVIET UNION, E.G., IS THE GOVERNMENT

NOW PAYING MORE ATTENTION TO WANTS OF CONSUMERS? IF SO, WHAT IMPACT WILL "CONSUMER SOVEREIGNTY" HAVE ON SOVIET SYSTEM?

C) WHILE SUBJECT IS GENERALLY LESS SENSITIVE THAN THAT OF LAST SYMPOSIUM, IT COULD PROVE EMBARRASSING IF SEEN AS NATO ATTACK ON SOVIET LIFE. AVOIDANCE OF THIS RESULT, NOT TO MENTION SUCCESS OF SYMPOSIUM, OBVIOUSLY DEPENDS ON QUALITY OF EXPERTS INVITED. WE HOPE MISSION WILL IMPRESS ON SECRETARIAT NEED TO INVITE CAPABLE AND RESPONSIBLE SCHOLARS IN THE FIELD. SISCO

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